(d) the present position regarding acquisition of advance jet trainers?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Stage-III training of the IAF fighter pilots is, at present, being conducted on MiG-21 aircraft.

(c) and (d) Commercial negotiations with the shortlisted vendors are being conducted for acquisition of AJT. A few other options are also under consideration.

[Translation]

Setting up of Ordnance Factories

735. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to set up Ordnance factories in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in addition to Chhota Nagpur (Bihar)in 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kodarma sub-division administration of Bihar had set the map, after acquisition of land in October, 1985 to the Government for setting up the proposed ordnance factory; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) There was a proposal under consideration during 1985 for setting up a new ordnance factory to manufacture propellants. A site in Kodarma sub division, Hazaribagh dirtrict in Bihar was one of the alternatives proposed for it. On detailed examination it was concluded that no new factory needed to be set up since the requirement could be met from existing ordnance factories and the civil sector. The proposal to set-up a factory was accordingly dropped altogether.

[English]

By-Pass Road In Baramulla

736. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bye-pass road in district Baramulla at Tulibul Sopore was santioned by the Government;

(b) if so, the date on which it was sanctioned; and

(c) the details and the work done so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was sanctioned on 4.1.1990

(c) This work stands entrusted to Border Roads Organisation. The progress on land acquisition is 67%. Overall progress in the work is bout 15%.

Eradication of Substandard Shipping

737. SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh steps/ initiatives for the effective enforcement of Port State Control (PSC) and eradication of substandard shipping and also prevent pollution;

(b) if so, the details regarding present status in this regard at the major ports; and

(c) the details of action plan drawn out for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A separate cell has been formed in Directorate General of Shipping to monitor Port State Control inspections closely and has set increased targets for inspections. As a result, the number of inspections carried out at Major Ports and Minor Ports has gone up considerably. During the current year (upto September, 1997) 214 ships have already been inspected as against the target of 300 ships, whereas, during 1996 only 178 ships were inspected. Wherever deficiencies are found, the ships are detained and allowed to sail after rectifying the deficiencies.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Ordnance Depot in Kanpur

738. SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assigned the modernisation of Ordnance depot in (COD) Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh to the National Industrial Development Corporation (N.I.D.C.) and Meteorological Engineering Consultant (MECON); and

(b) if so, the what extent the work of modernisation has been done so far and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) No, Sir. The Government had only entrusted the work of preparation of Detailed Project Reports for the modernisation of the COD, Kanpur to M/s National Industrial Development Corporation Limited (NIDC) and M/s Metallurgical & Engineering Consultant (I) Ltd. (MECON), at a total cost of Rs. 42 lakhs. Both the firms have since submitted the Reports to the Government.

(b) As the work of modernisation of Depot is yet to start, no other expenditure has been incurred so far.